

- Unemployment rate rests at 6.9% in February
- Exports fall 4.8% in January
- Housing starts continue to rise (+9.2%) in February

### Labour Force

- British Columbia's unemployment rate remained at 6.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in February. The lack of change was largely the result of an addition of 10,300 (+0.4%) persons who were either working or looking for work, coupled with a similar increase in the number of people with jobs (+ 9,100, or +0.4%).

Employment in BC's goods sector dropped 0.7% in February as construction once more shed jobs (-3.7%). Agriculture (-3.3%) also employed fewer workers for a second straight month. Conversely, manufacturing, the goods sector's second-largest employer, continued to expand its workforce (+1.8%).

The province's service sector saw solid growth (+0.7%) in February, despite the fact that nearly half of the industries in the sector reduced their number of workers. Employment in retail & wholesale trade, the sector's largest employer, increased 3.5%. Noteworthy gains were also made in the educational services (+5.4%), professional, scientific & technical services (+4.8%) information, culture & recreation (+2.4%) and finance, insurance & real estate (+1.3%) industries. The business services (-9.2%), transportation & warehousing (-5.6%) and health care & social assistance (-2.4%) industries, on the other hand, were among those which employed fewer workers in February.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- Public (+0.5%) sector employment increased in February, but there were 0.6% fewer private sector workers. At the same time, self-

employment jumped 3.9%. Full-time employment was on the rise (+1.2%), but part-time employment lost ground (-2.5%). The youth unemployment rate climbed to 14.3%, while the jobless rate for workers aged 25 and over inched down to 5.7%.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- Regions of the province posted varied unemployment rates, ranging from 3.7% (3-month moving average, *unadjusted*) in Northeast to 12.2% in North Coast & Nechako. Vancouver Island/Coast (-1.5%), Thompson/Okanagan (-0.8%) and North Coast & Nechako (-0.2%) were the only regions where the number of jobs decreased. Northeast (+8.9%) recorded the most substantial boost in employment, with gains in other regions ranging from 2.3% in Cariboo to 8.4% in Kootenay.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- Canada's unemployment rate edged down to 7.4% in February, as the size of the labour force declined (-0.2%) while employment levels remained unchanged. The four western provinces continued to see jobless rates that were below the national average, but BC's rate remains the highest in Western Canada. Although the province's rate was half a percentage point below the national average last month, rates in Manitoba (5.6%), Saskatchewan and Alberta (each 5.0%) were notably lower than in BC.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- Workers in the province earned an average wage of \$23.77 per hour in February, slightly higher than the national wage rate (\$23.53). Weekly wages in BC (\$860.57) were

### Did you know...

Four in ten (41%) British Columbians admit that they typically leave the water running when they brush their teeth. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

also a shade above the Canadian average (\$855.69). Older workers in BC earn substantially more, on average, than those in other parts of the country. Hourly wages for British Columbians aged 55 and over averaged \$25.78 in October, compared to \$24.82 for all Canadians in this age group. As is the case in the rest of the country, full-time workers in BC tend to earn substantially more on an hourly basis than do those working part-time jobs (\$25.60 compared to \$17.18 in February).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

### The Economy

- **Exports of BC products slipped 4.8% (seasonally adjusted) in January adding to a 2.6% drop recorded in December.** Shipments of energy (-11.6%) and industrial & consumer (-3.6%) products decreased for a second straight month, while forestry (-3.1%) and agriculture (-0.5%) exports were also off.

Shipments to the US, the province's biggest export market, were down 3.7% in January, largely due to declining exports of resource-based products. Meanwhile, international shipments to other destinations were also down (-5.7%), primarily the result of a 15.1% decline in energy exports.

Canadian exports contracted 2.3% as shipments to Japan (-30.4%) and European Union (+12.1) fell well below December levels. On the other hand, exports to the US were slightly higher 0.3%.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **The number of housing starts in the province climbed 9.2% in February, building on a 27.4% surge recorded in the previous month.** Canadian starts were up slightly (+1.5%), as increases in the Western provinces and Quebec managed to offset hefty declines in much of the rest of the country. Inclement weather may have been a factor in the downturn for some areas. *Data Source: CMHC*

- **The cost of new housing in BC's two biggest metropolitan areas stalled in January.** Prices in Vancouver were unchanged from January

2011 (+0.0%), as falling house values (-0.2%) offset a 0.4% increase in land cost. Meanwhile, in Victoria, the index was down more notably (-2.4%), with a substantial decline in housing costs (-3.5%) outweighing slight inflationary pressure from land prices (+0.4%). Of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed nationwide, Toronto & Oshawa (+5.9%) and Regina (+5.3%) posted the biggest year-over-year increases, more than double the national average (+2.4%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities slipped (-4.9%, seasonally adjusted) in January, as permits for both residential (-0.7%) and non-residential (-12.3%) projects decreased.** Investment intentions climbed in Abbotsford-Mission (+225.3%) and Victoria (+26.6%), while permits in the Vancouver area, where most of the province's planned activity occurs, were significantly lower (-13.6%) than in December. Permits were also off in Kelowna (-70.3%).

Canadian permits showed a similar pattern (-12.3%), as strength in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and parts of Atlantic Canada could not offset declines in the four most populous provinces.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Production at sawmills and planing mills in BC was higher (+3.4%) in December than in the same month of 2010.** Although coastal mills produced less lumber (-1.2%), mills in the Interior increased their output by 4.0%. Meanwhile, Canadian production fell (-15.8%), largely because of slowed activity in Quebec (-10.6%) and Ontario (-27.4%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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# Aboriginal Population in British Columbia: A Study of Selected Indicators for Off-reserve and Urban Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population: Highlights

In October 2011, BC Stats was engaged in a study of Off-reserve and Urban Aboriginal population in BC, entitled *Aboriginal Population in British Columbia: A Study of Selected Indicators for Off-Reserve and Urban Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population*. The following is a summary of the findings of this study. To view the full report, please look [here](#).

## Introduction

Based on the 2006 Census, 196,075 people in British Columbia (4.8 percent of BC's total population) identified themselves as Aboriginal<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 1: Proportion of On-Reserve, Rural, and Urban Aboriginal Population in BC, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, prepared by BC Stats, 2011.

According to the 2006 Census, 60 percent of the Aboriginal population in BC were urban,<sup>2</sup> 14 percent lived in rural BC, and just over a quarter of the Aboriginal population lived on-reserve (Figure 1).

The vast majority (86 percent) of non-Aboriginal people lived in urban areas of BC.

## Characteristics of Aboriginal Population in BC

### Off-Reserve Population

Based on the 2006 Census, close to 75 percent (or about 145,000) of the Aboriginal population lived off-reserve in urban and rural areas of the province (about 3.6 percent of the total population of BC). Among those living off-reserve, 81 percent resided in urban areas (3.4 percent of the total urban population in BC).

### Urban Communities with High Proportions of Aboriginal People

Nearly 4 in 10 (37 percent) of the urban Aboriginal population (including those living on-reserve) resided in Vancouver (29 percent) or Victoria (8 percent). The next most popular areas to live included Prince George, Kelowna, Abbotsford and Kamloops.

<sup>1</sup> 2006 Census.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada defines urban area as having at least 1,000 people with a density of 400 or more people per square kilometre.

## **Aboriginal Population Age and Gender Distribution**

In 2006, the off-reserve Aboriginal population (which includes both urban and rural) was considerably younger compared to the urban non-Aboriginal population. Nearly half of the off-reserve Aboriginal population was less than 25 years of age, compared to 29 percent of the non-Aboriginal population. A pronounced difference between off-reserve Aboriginal and urban non-Aboriginal population was also evident at the other end of the age spectrum, with the proportion of Aboriginal population aged 45 years and over being almost 1.7 times lower than the non-Aboriginal population.

## **Children and Families**

Just over half of the off-reserve urban Aboriginal population (15 years and older) indicated that they were single at the time of the 2006 Census. The urban Aboriginal population was more likely to be single compared to their rural counterparts (54 percent and 43 percent respectively). Additionally, the urban Aboriginal population was also more likely to be single compared to the non-Aboriginal population (54 percent compared to 32 percent respectively).

Over fifty percent of the urban non-Aboriginal population were legally married;<sup>3</sup> whereas just over a quarter of the urban Aboriginal population were legally married.

## **Number of children**

In 2006, a little over 56,000 Aboriginal children (19 years of age and younger) in BC

lived off-reserve. The majority of these children (74 percent) were 14 years of age and younger.

## **Children in Care**

As of August 2011, there were a total of 8,109 children in government care in BC. Of these children, a total of 4,528 were Aboriginal (56 percent). The vast majority (nearly 89 percent) of the Aboriginal children in care lived in urban areas of BC. Aboriginal children in care constituted 70 percent or more of all children in care in a number of urban areas of BC. These were: Prince Rupert, Saanich, Terrace, Williams Lake, Merritt, Port Alberni, New Westminster, and Prince George.

## **Education**

In the 2009/2010 school year, almost 11 percent of students in the public school system self identified as Aboriginal.<sup>4</sup> The vast majority of Aboriginal Students (84 percent) in the public school system lived off-reserve.

## **Grade Transitions**

There are considerable differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students when assessing educational completion rates.<sup>5</sup> The gap is particularly noticeable in Grade 11, 12 and completion. A little over half (51 percent) of Aboriginal students who

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<sup>3</sup> Includes common law and same sex.

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<sup>4</sup> Refers to those persons who reported at least one Aboriginal ancestry (North American Indian, Métis or Inuit).

<sup>5</sup> The percentage of students who enter a grade for the first time from a lower grade and make a transition to a higher grade anywhere in the British Columbia school system in the following school year.

entered Grade 8 in the 2004/2005 school year completed high school compared to 82 percent for non-Aboriginal students. Aboriginal females are more likely to complete high school compared to their male counterparts (56 percent and 46 percent respectively). High school graduation can be classified as first time graduates and those who are eligible to graduate. First time graduates are students who have reached grade 12 for the first time, while those eligible to graduate include the first time graduates and the students who return to school at any age to complete their Grade 12.

From 2000/2001 to 2009/2010, there was a slow and steady increase in the first-time graduation rates for the non-Aboriginal students from 75 to 80 percent. However, this pattern does not hold true for the off-reserve Aboriginal students<sup>6</sup> in BC public schools. In 2003/2004, a decrease in the first-time graduation rate was seen for the off-reserve Aboriginal population and was followed by a steady increase for the next four years. In 2009/2010, off-reserve Aboriginal students had a first-time graduation rate of 62 percent – 18 percentage points lower than the non-Aboriginal population (Figure 2).

Figure 3 shows the rates of off-reserve Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students who were eligible to graduate from 2001/2002 to 2009/2010. The rate for the off-reserve Aboriginal students has been between 89 to 91 percent, similar to the rate of non-Aboriginal students (between 94 and 96 percent).

## **Educational Attainments**

According to 2006 Census, over one-third of the Aboriginal population in urban areas did not have a certificate, diploma or degree, compared to about 1 in 5 of the non-Aboriginal population. Fewer than 7.0 percent of the urban Aboriginal population held a Bachelor's degree or higher compared to 21.0 percent of the urban non-Aboriginal population.

## **Employment and Income**

According to the Labour Force Survey, compared to the urban non-Aboriginal population, the urban Aboriginal population with no completed credentials had a much lower employment rate (41.9 percent compared to 57.9 percent).

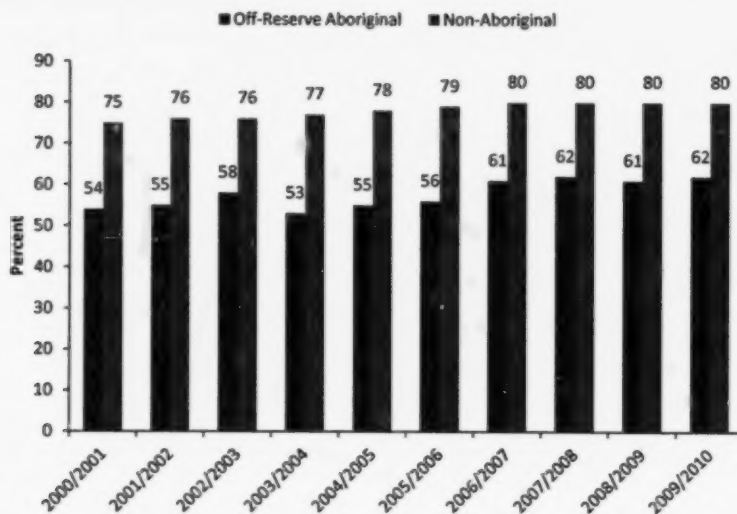
However, as the educational attainments increase for the urban Aboriginal population so do their employment prospects. The employment gap between the two populations is substantially decreased for the urban Aboriginal population who completed their high school and also those who attained post-secondary credentials. In fact, the urban Aboriginal population who earned a university degree had a higher employment rate (82.3 percent) compared to the urban non-Aboriginal population (80.1percent) (Figure 4).

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<sup>6</sup> Includes only Aboriginal students who attend a school and who live off a reserve.

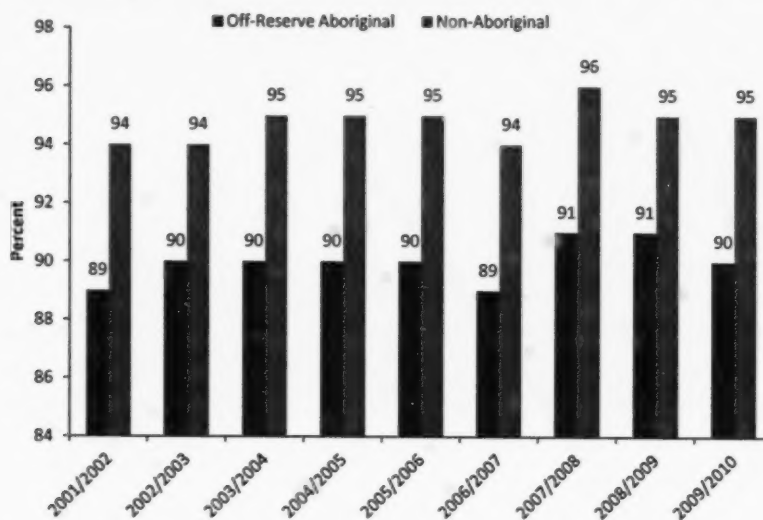


**Figure 2: Graduation Rates, First-Time Graduates, Off-Reserve Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Students, 2000/2001-2009/2010**



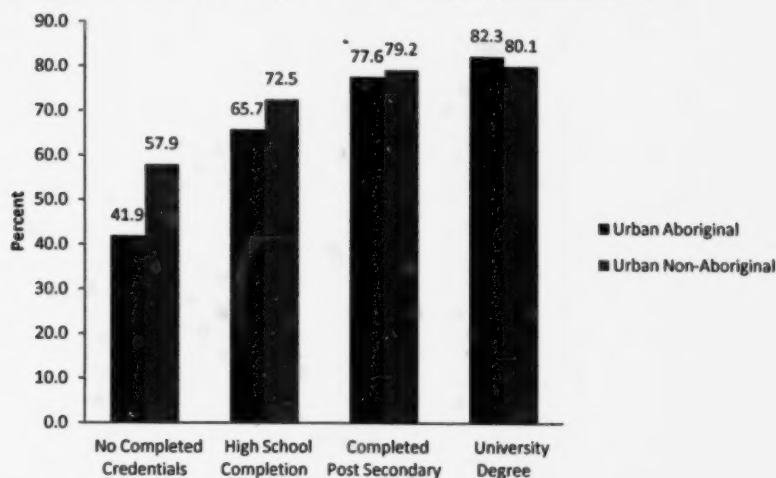
Source: Ministry of Education, Special Request, prepared by BC Stats, 2011

**Figure 3: Graduation Rates, Those Eligible to Graduate, Off-Reserve Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal, 2000/2001 – 2009/2010**



Source: Ministry of Education, Special Request, prepared by BC Stats, 2011

**Figure 4: Employment Rates for 25-64 Age Group based on Educational Attainments, Urban Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Populations, BC, October 2011**



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, October 2011 (3 month moving average), prepared by BC Stats, 2011

### Employment – Age Group 25-54

According to the 2006 Census, for those in the 25-54 age group, the labour force participation rate was similar for rural Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations at 81.9 percent and 85.0 percent. The unemployment rate for the urban and rural Aboriginal populations in this age group was more than twice the rate of the non-Aboriginal population (10.7 percent, 11.8 percent, and 4.7 percent respectively).

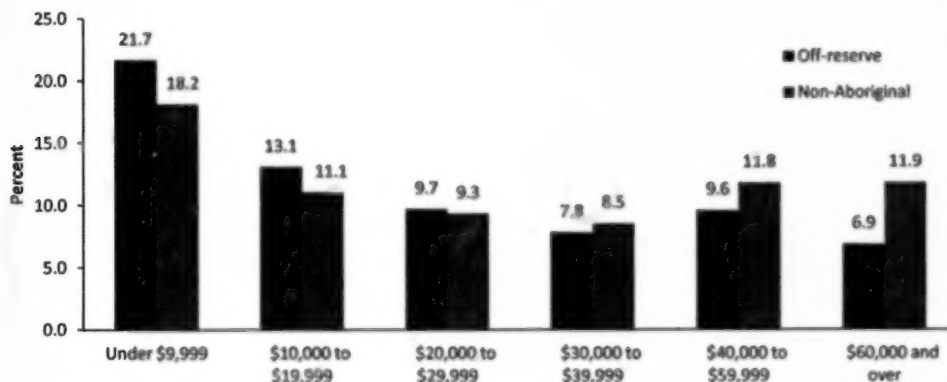
The labour force participation rate for Aboriginal males in this age group was 84.2 percent compared to 90.2 percent for non-Aboriginal males. Aboriginal males had an unemployment rate that was more than twice the rate of non-Aboriginal males (9.8 percent and 4.2 percent respectively). The patterns were similar for the female population. The urban Aboriginal females had a participation rate of 73 percent compared to non-Aboriginal females at 80

percent. Urban Aboriginal females in this age group also had an unemployment rate that was twice the rate of non-Aboriginal females (11.5 percent and 5.2 percent respectively).

### Income

At the time of 2006 Census, the income distribution patterns were notably different between the off-reserve Aboriginal population and non-Aboriginal population. There was a much higher proportion of Aboriginal population with lower incomes (under \$30,000) compared to the non-Aboriginal population. In contrast, the non-Aboriginal population had a much higher proportion of higher income levels of \$30,000 and more. The greatest difference between off-reserve Aboriginal population and non-Aboriginal population was seen for those with incomes of \$60,000 and over (6.9 percent and 11.9 percent respectively) (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Total Income Distribution, Off-Reserve and Non-Aboriginal Population, BC, 2006**

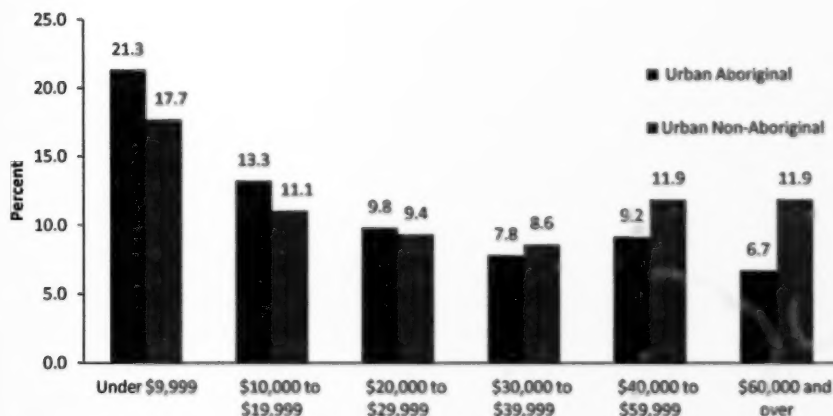


Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, prepared by BC Stats, 2011

Similarly, there was a considerable difference in total income distribution when comparing the urban Aboriginal and urban non-Aboriginal populations. The portion of the urban Aboriginal population who earned less than \$30,000 was higher than

the urban non-Aboriginal population. The income distribution for the urban Aboriginal population is considerably lower at \$30,000 and above, with the greatest difference seen in the \$60,000 and over range (6.7 percent vs. 11.9 percent) (Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Total Income Distribution, Urban Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal population, BC, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, prepared by BC Stats, 2011



## Health

Currently, the only source of available data on the health of the Aboriginal population is from the Statistics Canada's Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). CCHS is a survey that collects information on health status, health care utilization and other health determinants of the Canadian population including Aboriginal people. Unfortunately, the sample size for the BC urban Aboriginal population was approximately 375 which made the data unreliable for use. Where possible, data from CCHS based on total BC Aboriginal population is included.

The only other source of data on the health of the Aboriginal population is the administrative data on First Nations (Status Indians, other residents). This data was reported extensively in the *Pathways to Health and Healing: 2nd Report on the Health and Well-being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia*, Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report 2007. The Provincial Health Officer's Report (PHO) was released in 2008. The data represents 167,782 registered Status Indians in BC. A series of health indicators from the PHO report were presented in the BC Stats report. A summary of these indicators are presented in this section.

### Chronic Diseases

The data for all the chronic diseases was produced for the PHO report using the National Diabetes and Chronic Disease Surveillance System which was a collaboration among the provinces,

territories, Aboriginal partners and the Public Health Agency of Canada. This project began for the purpose of improving the data and the analysis of these conditions to better measure the prevalence, incidence and mortality of diabetes and other chronic conditions.

### Diabetes

The prevalence of diabetes has increased significantly among the First Nation population in the past 50 years<sup>7</sup>. At the end of fiscal year 2006/2007, there were approximately 7,100 Status Indians who were diagnosed as having diabetes in British Columbia (PHO Report, 2008). The latest available data on age-specific prevalence rates for diabetes show that the Status Indian population has a much higher rate of diabetes in all age groups starting at the age of 30 and over compared to other residents. The difference between the two populations is particularly significant in the 60 to 70 age group. The age-standardized<sup>7</sup> prevalence rate of Diabetes was 6.4 for Status Indian males and 6.9 percent for Status Indian females. These rates were much higher than the rates for other residents at 5.4 percent and 4.3 percent respectively (Figure 7).

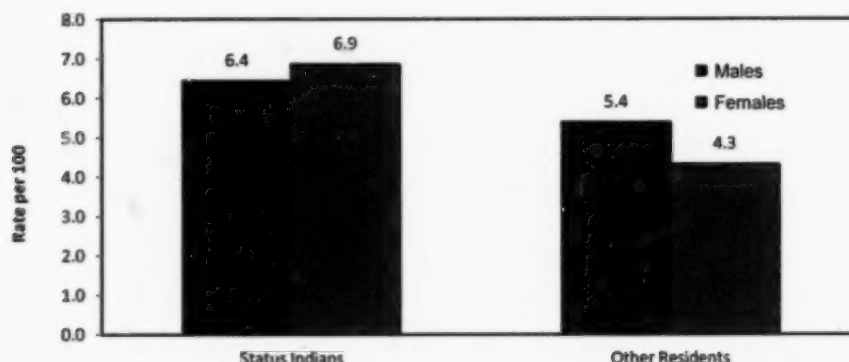
### Overweight/Obesity

Overweight/obesity is a risk factor for a number of chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart

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<sup>7</sup> Age standardization is a calculation that adjusts a statistical measure for differences in the age/gender structures between populations. With standardization, more meaningful comparisons can be made between genders, different time periods, or geographical areas, because the age standardization is calculated as if all populations had the same age/gender population distribution.

**Figure 7: Diabetes, Age-Standardized Prevalence Rate, by Gender, Status Indians and Other Residents, BC, 2006/2007**



Source: Population Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, 2008 for the Pathways to Health and Healing: 2nd Report on Health and Well-being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia, 2008

disease. Based on the latest available data from the CCHS, the Aboriginal population in all age groups reported a higher rate of overweight/obesity compared to the non-Aboriginal population. The greatest difference was for those aged 55+, where 73 percent of the Aboriginal people who responded considered themselves overweight or obese. The rate for non-Aboriginal population was 54 percent. The children and youth population (those under age 25) also reported having overweight/obesity problems at 42 percent (Figure 8).

## Mortality Rates

### Alcohol-related deaths

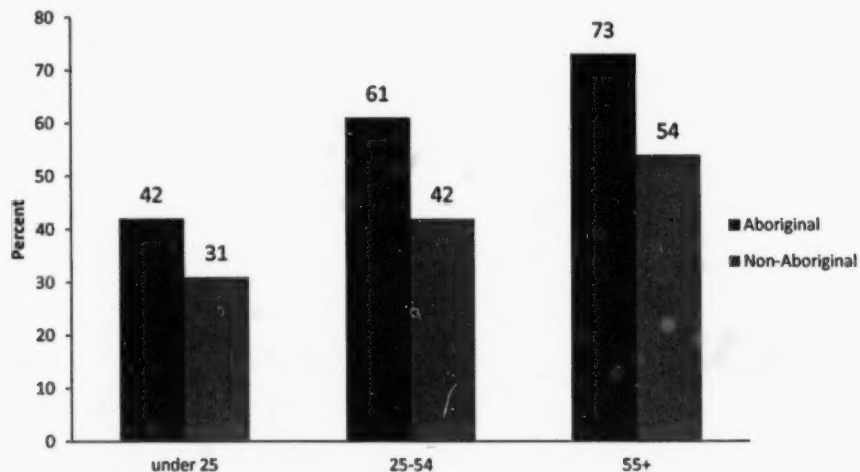
Alcohol-related deaths are deaths that are directly due to alcohol use or where alcohol was a contributing factor to the death. Since 1993, alcohol-related deaths have shown to be significantly higher for the Status Indian population compared to other residents

(Figure 9). An analysis of alcohol-related motor vehicle accidental deaths shows that the Status Indian population was more than twice as likely to die from such a cause compared to other residents (Figure 10).

### Suicides

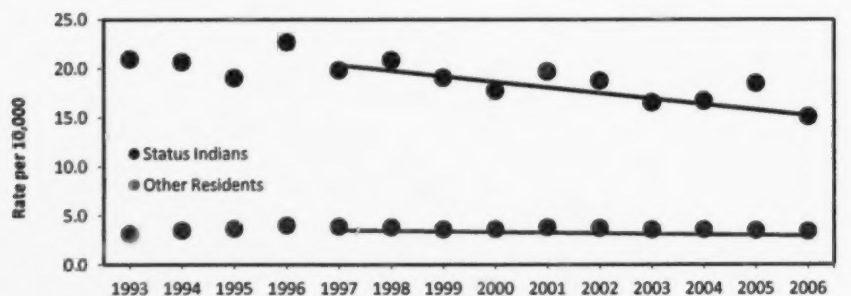
From 1993 to 2006, a significant decrease was seen in suicide deaths for the Status Indian population (from 3.5 per 10,000 to 1.7 per 10,000 respectively). However, in 2006, the suicide death rates for the Status Indian population were still more than twice the rate as the other residents (1.7 per 10,000 compared to 0.7 per 10,000). In 2006, suicide was the fourth highest cause of death for the Status Indian population who died before reaching age 75 (Figure 11).

**Figure 8: Overweight/Obesity Rates, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population, 2009/2010**



Source: Canadian Community Health Survey Share File, 2009/2010, prepared by BC Stats, 2011

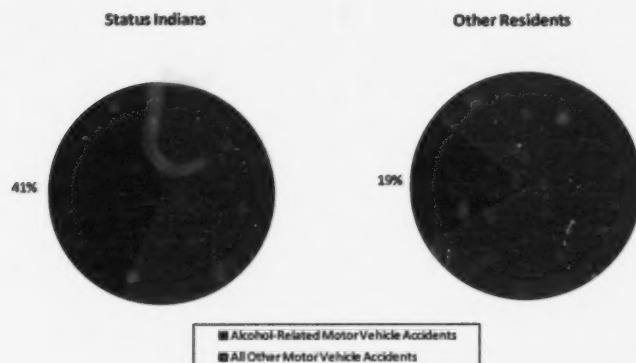
**Figure 9: Alcohol-Related Deaths, Age-Standardized Mortality Rate, Status Indians and Other Residents, BC, 1993 to 2006**



Note: Age-Standardized mortality rate per 10,000 standard population (1991 Canada Census).

Source: Population Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, 2008 for the Pathways to Health and Healing: 2nd Report on Health and Well-being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia, 2008

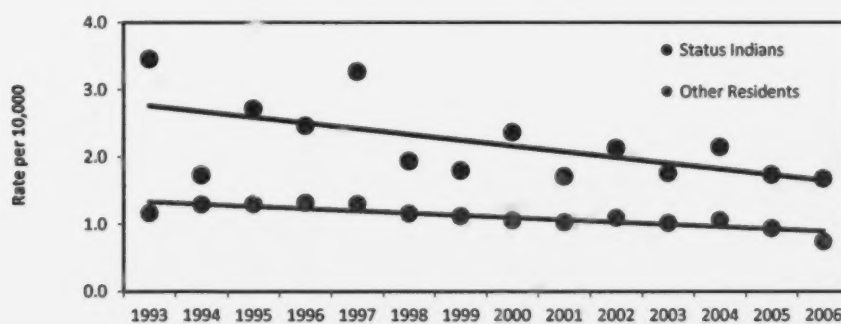
**Figure 10: Report of Deaths Due to Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Accidents, Status Indians and Other Residents, BC, 2002-2006**



Note: BC Vital Statistics Agency data received from Coroners Services of BC on alcohol-related deaths are incomplete and are currently under review. ICD Codes: V02-V04, V09, V12-V14, V190-V196, V20-V78, V803-V805, V820-V821, V823-V890, V899, Y850.

Source: Population Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, 2008 for the Pathways to Health and Healing: 2nd Report on Health and Well-being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia, 2008

**Figure 11: Suicide, Age-Standardized Mortality Rate, Status Indians and Other Residents, BC, 1993 to 2006**



Note: Age-Standardized mortality rate per 10,000 standard population (1991 Canada Census). ICD Codes: X60-X84, Y870.

Source: Population Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, 2008 for the Pathways to Health and Healing: 2nd Report on Health and Well-being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia, 2008

## Housing and homelessness

Aboriginal people are more likely to live in houses that are crowded, in need of repair or consume more than 30 percent of their before-tax income. Data from the PHO report showed that from 1994/95 to 2005/06, the percentage increase in the number of Aboriginal housing<sup>8</sup> in need of major renovations (including structural repairs to the walls, floors, ceilings or roof; and replacement or upgrading of defective plumbing or electrical wiring) increased by 121 percent.

Based on the 2006 Census, 21 percent of Aboriginal housing was in need of major repair compared to only 7 percent of the same for the non-Aboriginal population in BC. Similar patterns were also seen in many urban areas of the province. For example, in Vancouver, 15 percent of the Aboriginal population lived in housing in need of major repairs compared to 6 percent of the same for the non-Aboriginal population (Statistics Canada, 2006 Census).

## Homelessness

Gathering data on homelessness is difficult due to the transient nature of the homeless population. However, estimates indicate that Aboriginal people are over represented. Aboriginal people represent 2 percent of the

Greater Vancouver Regional District population but constitute 30 percent of the homeless. The rate of homelessness is estimated to be higher among street homeless who do not tend to access the shelters. The street homeless are generally worse off and tend to have a number of health problems (PHO, 2008).

## Conclusion

Based on 2006 Census, nearly 75 percent of all Aboriginal population in BC lived off-reserve. Almost 81 percent of those living off-reserve lived in urban areas of the province.

Overall, the urban Aboriginal population had lower levels of education, income, and employment compared to the non-Aboriginal population. As noted earlier, the Census provides the most complete picture of the off-reserve Aboriginal population in BC; however, due to limited sample sizes, the health data from Statistics Canada could not be used for this report. Although no health data is available for the urban population in particular, the First Nations health data (Status Indian in particular) is indicative of the higher prevalence rates of chronic disease and higher levels of mortality rates of preventative causes such as motor vehicle accidents, HIV and suicides among the Aboriginal population compared to other residents in BC.

Over time, more off-reserve/urban specific socio-economic data will help to better understand the cause of the gaps that exists between the urban Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population.

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<sup>8</sup> Aboriginal housing is defined by CMHC as one of the following: a non-family household in which at least 50% of household members self-identified as Aboriginal; or a family household that meets at least one of two criteria: 1) at least one spouse, common-law partner, or lone-parent self-identified as an Aboriginal; or 2) at least 50% of household members self-identified as Aboriginal.



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## BC at a glance...

POPULATION (thousands)		
	Oct 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,592.0	0.9
Canada	34,605.3	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	203,147	5.9
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)	167,140	3.0
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)	26,166	2.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		
		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Dec 2011	3,104	-1.9
Merchandise Exports - Dec 2011	2,771	-3.6
Retail Sales - Dec 2011	5,028	-1.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - Jan 2012)	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
BC	1.7	2.3
Vancouver	1.8	2.2
Victoria	1.5	2.1
Canada	2.5	2.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Feb 2012	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	9.1	
Labour Force - BC	2,472.4	0.4
Employed - BC	2,300.8	0.4
Unemployed - BC	171.5	0.6
		Jan 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	6.9	6.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.4	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	Mar 7/2012	Mar 9/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.20	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.44
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
	Mar 7/2012	Mar 9/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$	0.9993	0.9686
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$	1.0018	1.0323
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Feb 2012	% change on one year ago
BC	860.57	3.8
Canada	855.69	2.8
SOURCES:		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see <a href="http://www.bankofcanada.ca">www.bankofcanada.ca</a>		

### New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds, including: Aboriginal Peoples, Business and Industry, Census, Economic Statistics, Education, Environment, Geography and Mapping, Income, Pensions, Spending and Wealth, International and Interprovincial Trade, Labour, Population, Demography and Immigration, and more.

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx>

### The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

#### May 8, 2013

- Immigration; Citizenship;
- Place of birth; Language;
- Ethnic origin; Visible minorities;
- Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

#### June 26, 2013

- Labour; Education;
- Place of work; Commuting to work;
- Mobility and migration;
- Language of work

#### August 14, 2013

- Income; Earnings; Housing;
- Shelter costs

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm>

### Census 2011 Fast Facts

According to the 2011 census, compared to other provinces, BC's population growth was second only to Alberta over the 2006 to 2011 period. In May of 2011, the census counted 4,400,057 persons in BC, up 286,570 (+7.0%) from the 2006 count. Read more on the 2011 Census page:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx>

### Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics, February 2012

### Next week

- Exports, January 2012
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 4th Quarter 2011
- Earnings & Employment Trends, February 2012

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